1	2	3
49.	Budge Budge RLU	106
50.	Amtola RLU	56
51.	Nodakhali	1
52.	Salt Lake (FETEX)	215
53.	Salt Lake RLU (E-10-B)	193
54.	Salt Lake (EWSD)	17
55.	East I	836
56.	East II	1
57.	Bagh Bazar	162
58.	Bagh Bazar RLU	503
59.	Bagh Bazar I	1087
60.	Cossipore	593
61.	Dum Dum	1112
62.	Dum Dum II	171
63.	Airport RLU	300
64.	Jessore Road RLU	468
65.	Birati RLU	482
66.	Madhyamgram	733
67.	Barasat RLU	513
68.	Panihati RLU	1015
69.	Barrackpore RLU	441
70.	Bhatpara RLU	77
71.	Kalyani RLU	85

[Translation]

Konkan Railway Project

257. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Konkan Railway project is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to salvage this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Proposal to run All Assam bound Trains from Calcutta

258. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run all Assam bound trains from Calcutta with air-brake system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay to change the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express has been provided with air brake rakes and 5659/5690 Kamrup Express will be provided with air brake rakes during the current year. The remaining trains on this section will be gradually taken up for conversion into air brake alongwith other Vacuum brake trains in a phased manner depending upon the availability of air brake stock from Production Units.

Hardships faced by the Passengers of Kerala

259. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the passengers of Kerala while travelling from Howrah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no super fast train running between Howrah and Kerala;

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that all the trains from Howrah to Kerala are running via Chennai;

(e) whether any steps are being taken to introduce a superfast train between Howrah and Trivandrum via shortest route;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present, Howrah is connected with Kerala by 4 pairs of weekly express trains viz. 6321/6322 Guwahati-Trivandrum, 6323/6324 Trivandrum-Howrah, 6313/6314 Guwahati-Cochin and 6315/6316 Howrah-Cochin Expreses. These services coupled with changeover facilities are by and large catering to the traffic offering between Howrah and Kerala. However, there are periods of extra rush due to festivals, holidays etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Trips to Virar of Western Railways

260. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the trips to Virar, Western Railway Local sector are increased by only two out of 52 total increased trips, as per new time-table;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the trips to Virar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 2 pair of Virar bound local trains (EMU) have been increased w.e.f. 1.10.96.

(b) Operational and resources constraints.

(c) Additional trips to Virar have not been found feasible. However, the number of 12-car services to/from Virar have been increased by 60 during 1996-97.

Connection of entire Calcutta by Rail

261. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that till now Calcutta is not connected with several places of the country by rail;

(b) if so, the steps to be taken to connect the places like Rajkot, Ghandhidham, Dwarka, Goa, Jaisalmer, Kanyakumari, Bikaner with Calcutta by direct rail services; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Calcutta is well connected by rail.

(b) and (c). Howrah is already connected with Bikaner, Rajkot, Ghandhidham by direct trains/through coaches. Introduction of new trains from Howrah to Dwarka, Goa, Jaisalmer, Kannyakumari has not been found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Construction of Over Bridge at Railway Crossing

262. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gate of railway crossing at Palam Colony, New Delhi generally remains closed due to the gauge conversion work undertaken recently as many trains now pass through the track;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct an over bridge for the smooth flow of road transport over the said railway crossing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Normally the level crossing is kept open to road traffic. Number of closures of level crossing has reduced as number of trains after gauge conversion has reduced.

A proposal of Delhi Development Authority to replace the level crossing by a Road over bridge is under planning as the Delhi Development Authority has not yet completed the requisite preliminaries.

Railway Network

263. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the target growth of railway network in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that the achievement was far below the target;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the achievement rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Achievements expected by the end of year 1996-97 under various plan heads, as compared to the targets fixed for the VIII five year plan, are as under :

	Plan Head	Target for VIII Plan	Achievement Expected
1.	Rolling Stock (Number)		
	(i) Locus	1499	1517
	(ii) Coaches	9100	9136
	(iii) EMUs	1265	1288
	(iv) Wagons	120000/99509*	97303+5000 wagons under OYWS in 1996-97
2.	Track Renewals (Kms)	12500	13972
3.	Gauge Conversion (Kms)	6000/8100*	7033
4.	Electrification (Kms)	3000/2700*	2700
5.	Doubling (Kms)	1250	1088
6.	New Lines (kms)	No Targets	714

(* Revised Targets)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amount Allocated to Maharashtra for Promotion of Tourism

264. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the schematic amount allocated during the